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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

PO BOX 202501  
HELENA MT 59620-2501  
[www.opi.state.mt.us](http://www.opi.state.mt.us)  
(406) 444-3095  
(888) 231-9393  
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

May 2004

Dear Educator:

Although these last few weeks of school are extremely busy, I hope you will join me to promote summer reading with your students. The 2004 Summer Reading Program, ***Reading Is A Picnic***, is a collaborative effort between the Office of Public Instruction, the Montana State Reading Council, MEA-MFT, the Montana State Elks Association and my READ Montana! Initiative.

Enclosed with this letter is a master copy of the ***Reading Is A Picnic*** calendar of suggested activities for students during their summer break. I would encourage you to make a copy of the packet for each of your students. With some guidance, kindergarten students all the way through eighth grade students can complete the activities.

***Reading Is A Picnic*** monthly calendars offer day-by-day fun reading, writing and thinking activities. Many of the activities also encourage healthy eating and fitness habits.

Please share these materials with your colleagues and challenge your students to read this summer as well as visit their local library and bookstores. Parents, family members and friends are also encouraged to participate in these great summer reading activities.

Students completing the activities will receive a **Family Reading Certificate** and a surprise!

Thank you for promoting family reading and encouraging your students to participate in this fun summer reading activity. I wish you a wonderful, peaceful and refreshing summer. You have my deepest admiration and respect for all of your hard work and continued dedication to our Montana children.

Warmest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda McCulloch".

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent of Public Instruction



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Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

Dear Student:

A Tisket, a Tasket, and Books in a Basket! What a great way to spend your summer...by building a basket full of books. Enjoy a summer of travel, adventure and fun as you relax with a good book.

To fill your summer with lots of reading, here is a calendar of fun activities for the months of June, July and August. This is all you need to do:

Complete the **Reading Is A Picnic** activity for each day. As you finish each activity, color in the block for that day. Be sure and keep the calendar in a place where it will be easy for you to read.

Involve your family, relatives and friends in the **Reading Is A Picnic** activities. Visit your local library often and keep your "basket" full of books. Enjoy the new friends who are waiting for you inside the cover of a book.

Complete the form on the last page of the **Reading Is A Picnic** information and have a parent or guardian sign the form. You will then become a member of my **READER BOOK CLUB** and I will send you a surprise!

Send the form to: June Atkins  
Office of Public Instruction  
P.O. Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620

Have a great summer of reading!

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda McCulloch".

Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent of Public Instruction

# *Reading is a Picnic!*

## Suggested Books For You To Read

### **KINDERGARTEN**

- Bread and Jam for Frances by Russell Hoban
- The Picky Eater by Marc Brown
- Gregory, the Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat
- I Will Never Not Eat a Tomato by Lauren Child
- The Berry Book by Gail Gibbons
- Bread Bread Bread by Ann Morris
- Eating the Alphabet: Fruits and Vegetables from A to Z by Lois Ehlert
- Growing Colors by Bruce McMillan
- Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French
- The Meat and Protein Group by Helen Frost
- We Can Eat the Plants by Rozanne Lanczak Williams
- We Love Fruit! by Fay Robinson
- What Food is This? by Rosemarie Hausherr
- Oliver's Milk Shake by Vivian French
- The Popcorn Book by Tomie de Paula
- Walter the Baker by Eric Carle
- Lunch by Denise Fleming

### **FIRST GRADE**

- Dinosaurs Alive and Well! A Guide to Good Health by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
- Oh, the Things You Can Do That Are Good For You! by Tish Rabe
- The Edible Pyramid: Good Eating Every Day by Loreen Leedy
- Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide To Food and Nutrition by Lizzy Rockwell
- Eat Right: Tips for Good Nutrition by Katie Bagley
- Everyone Bakes Bread by Norah Dooley
- I Eat Vegetables! by Hannah Tofts
- Lunch by Denise Fleming
- The Meat and Protein Group by Helen Frost
- Oliver's Fruit Salad by Vivian French
- The Food Pyramid by Joan Kalbacken
- Oliver's Milk Shake by Vivian French
- The Popcorn Book by Tomie de Paula
- Come and Eat with Us! by OXFAM
- Everybody Cooks Rice by Norah Dooley
- Family by Isabel Monk
- Let's Eat! by Ana Zamorano



## **SECOND GRADE**

- Dinosaurs Alive and Well! A Guide to Good Health by Laurie Krasny Brown and Marc Brown
- Oh, the Things You Can Do That Are Good For You! by Tish Rabe
- Eat Your Vegetables! Drink Your Milk! by Dr. Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein
- Get in Shape, Jonas! by Wolfgang D. Hoelscher
- Get Moving: Tips on Exercise by Kathy Feeney
- Let The Games Begin! By Maya Ajmera and Michael J. Regan
- The Muscular System by Helen Frost
- Staying Healthy: Let's Exercise by Alice B. McGinty
- Extra Cheese! Please by Cris Peterson
- The Food Pyramid by Joan Kalbacken
- Make Me a Peanut Butter Sandwich and a Glass of Milk by Ken Robbins
- The Edible Pyramid: Good Eating Every Day by Loreen Leedy
- Good Enough to Eat: A Kid's Guide to Food and Nutrition by Lizzy Rockwell
- Supermarket by Kathleen Krull
- Fast Food Gulp! Gulp! by Bernard Waber
- Fats, Oils, and Sweets by Helen Frost
- Eat Right: Tips for Good Nutrition by Katie Bagley
- Vitality by John Parsons
- Oliver's Milk Shake by Vivian French
- The Popcorn Book by Tomie de Paola

## **THIRD GRADE**

- Eat Right: Tips for Good Nutrition by Katie Bagley
- Eat Your Vegetables! Drink Your Milk! by Dr. Alvin Silverstein, Virginia Silverstein, and Laura Silverstein Nunn
- The Food Pyramid by Joan Kalbacken
- Vitality by John Parsons
- Vitamins and Minerals by Joan Kalbacken
- Oh, the Things You Can Do That Are Good For You! by Tish Rabe
- The Peanut Butter Jam by Elizabeth Sussman Nassau
- Allie the Allergies Elephant: A Children's Story of Peanut Allergies by Nicole Smith
- Gregory, the Terrible Eater by Michell Sharmat
- The Race Against Junk Food by Anthony Buono
- Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett
- Pickles to Pittsburgh by Judi Barrett
- Spaghetti and Meatballs for All: A Mathematical Story by Marilyn Burns

## **GRADES FOUR TO EIGHT**

- Food Rules! The Stuff You Munch, It's Crunch, It's Punch, and Why You Sometimes Lose Your Lunch by Bill Haduch
- Going for the Gold: Sarah Hughes, America's Sweetheart by R. S. Ashby
- Pass the Energy, Please by Barbara Shaw McKinney
- The Monster by Peter Kray
- Body Talk: The Straight Facts on Fitness, Nutrition, and Feeling Great About Yourself by Ann Douglas, Julie Douglas, Claudia Davita
- Happy Feet, Healthy Food: Your Child's First Journal of Exercise and Healthy Eating by Carol Goodrow

Prepared by



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent

Montana Office of Public Instruction  
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2004

# My Favorite Book or Story

**By** \_\_\_\_\_

Write about a book or story you've read.

Write it in the space above.

I hope you enjoyed the Reading is

a Picnic activities.

Remember to read at least 20 minutes  
every day.

Visit your library.



2004

# June

# Reading is a Picnic!

# 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>A tisket, a tasket and books in a basket</b></p> <p>Start out your summer by building a basket full of books. As each family member finishes a book, drop it in a basket. How many books will you and your family read this summer?</p> 	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Basket O' Books</b></p> <p>Visit your library with a basket in your hand. Fill it up with books. What a treat!</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Choose</b></p> <p>three new books to read this month.</p> 	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>My Journal</b></p> <p>Start a journal. Write in it every day. Write about your feelings, wishes, activities and thoughts.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Make a list</b></p> <p>of your favorite picnic foods. Put them in alphabetical order.</p> 	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Picnic/Picnic</b></p> <p>Cut out pictures of healthy food to pack in your picnic basket. Don't forget to pack a book.</p>	
<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Map It Out</b></p> <p>Use a map to plan the route for your picnic. Pick a pretend place if you'd like.</p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Write</b></p> <p>in your journal today. Add pictures and other souvenirs.</p> 	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Weave Reading into Your Summer</b></p> <p>Have a family member tell a family story. Write it down. Put it in your family history book.</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>A Tiskit! A Tasket!</b></p> <p>My green and yellow basket. Read this rhyme aloud to someone.</p> 	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Scrapbook</b></p> <p>Start a scrapbook with the words you found for win. Add words all summer long.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>What's Inside?</b></p> <p>Pack a picnic basket full of items beginning with the letter B(b). Have members of your family guess what is in the basket.</p> 	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Ladybugs on a Stick</b></p> <p>For each one: Push half of a red grape on a wooden skewer for the head. Push on a hulled strawberry body and score the back to create wings. For spots, use a toothpick to press in chocolate chips.</p> 
<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Read to yourself. Then read your favorite part to someone.</b></p> 	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>What is . . .</b></p> <p>special about this day? Make a list of the places where you see the U.S. flag displayed. Attend a flag ceremony in your area.</p> 	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Baskets, Books and Birthdays</b></p> <p>Need a nifty idea for summer birthday gifts? Fill a basket with books, bookmarks, blankets, etc., to provide supplies for fun reading.</p> 	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>Look</b></p> <p>for pictures and words of your favorite picnic foods. Cut them out and make a book.</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Acrostic</b></p> <p>Start each line of your poem with the letter on each line:</p> <p>P I C N I C</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Going on a Picnic?</b></p> <p>Remember to pack lots of reading materials along with your yummy, healthy picnic food.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Memories</b></p> <p>After your picnic, fill your basket with flowers, leaves, and other plants. Press or place them in a scrapbook to keep for always.</p> 
<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>Father's Day</b></p> <p>Make a card for Father's Day.</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Coupons</b></p> <p>Write coupons to your family. They can entitle the receiver to a big hug, dishes washed or other good ideas.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Pick out</b></p> <p>two cartoon strips. Cut them in sections and mix them up. Save them.</p> 	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Cereal</b></p> <p>Read the cereal boxes. What did you learn? Tell someone.</p> 	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>Eat Light! Read Light!</b></p> <p>Remember to pack paperbacks, magazines and newspapers, and healthy snacks in your backpack.</p> 	<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>ABCs</b></p> <p>Cut big alphabet letters from magazines. Paste at least one of each letter on separate pages to make an alphabet book. Find pictures of picnic foods beginning with each letter.</p> 	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Play</b></p> <p>a game with your family such as Scrabble, Pictionary, Trivial Pursuit.</p> 
<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Read! Read! Read! Read!</b></p> 	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Be Sneaky</b></p> <p>Place a loving note in someone's lunchbox, backpack, purse or other favorite place.</p> 	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>It's a Date</b></p> <p>Make a calendar of summer fun. Include birthdays of family and friends; special plans. Include trips to the library.</p> 	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Books</b></p> <p>How many books have you read this month? Share a favorite part with someone.</p>	<p>• <b>Save for a rainy day</b> •</p> <p>Prepare for a rainy day by packing your picnic basket with fun foods and books. When it rains, you will be ready for a fun day indoors.</p> 		



# July

# Reading is a Picnic!

# 2004


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Oh! The places you will go. Reading will take you to many, many places</i></p> 				<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Get three or more books to read this month.</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Park Yourself in a Park!</b></p> <p>Read your city's map. Find a new park or someplace in your neighborhood to visit.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>Find ...</b></p> <p>... something interesting in the newspaper. Read it to someone.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>Happy Birthday, USA!</b></p> <p>Read or write a story about Independence Day. Draw a picture.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Take a WOW Walk!</b></p> <p>Take a walk. Keep a list of things you see on your walk that make you go "WOW!"</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>- READ -</b></p> <p>about your favorite Summer Olympic game or your favorite sport.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Star Light! Star Bright!</b></p> <p>Find or read stories about the constellations. See how many you can find in the night sky.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Nature is Music to Your Ears</b></p> <p>Go outdoors with your family in the evening. How many sounds did you hear? Make a list or draw pictures.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Favorite Sport</b></p> <p>Think of your favorite sport or game and draw a picture of it.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>Visit your library.</b></p> <p>Learn about the Summer Olympic Games.</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Have</b></p> <p>a family member tell a story.</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Follow</b></p> <p>your favorite sport or Olympic game in the newspaper and keep a log of the team or athlete's season.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>Ride your bike</b></p> <p>Write a story about the first time you rode your bike.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>It's a Cake Walk</b></p> <p>Bake a cake, pack a book and walk these goodies over to your neighbor or to a new family in your neighborhood.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p><b>Get your</b></p> <p>cut-up cartoon strips and see if you can put them back in order.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>S.U.T.A.R.D.</b></p> <p>Sit Under a Tree and Read Day!</p> <p>Find a shade tree. Sit under the tree and read a good book.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>Hike</b></p> <p>Go for a hike. Keep your eyes and ears open. When you get home make a list of all the things you can remember.</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Read</b></p> <p>your favorite story to a special someone.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Take a vacation without leaving home!</b></p> <p>Find a comfortable place to read. As you read, jot down all the places you visited through the characters and settings. Illustrate the places you visited.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>It's in the Stars</b></p> <p>Read legends about the constellations. How many constellations can you find in the night sky? As you find them, retell the tale.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>Draw</b></p> <p>a map from your home to school.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>Listen for Sounds!</b></p> <p>Go outdoors with your family in the evening. How many sounds did you hear? Make a list of the sounds.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Ever eat a tree?</b></p> <p>Many parts are edible. Learn more about trees by reading a great book.</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>What is your sign?</b></p> <p>As you drive, read as many signs as you can out loud. What is your favorite sign?</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p><b>Yellowstone is Golden</b></p> <p>Read about famous parks in our state. If you can, visit one or pretend you are visiting one. Write a story.</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p><b>Observe</b></p> <p>the night sky. Discuss the patterns of the stars. Read a story, a book or an article about the moon or stars.</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>It's only make believe!</b></p> <p>If you could walk across rainbows, how would it feel? Jot down your ideas in your journal.</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>Puppets</b></p> <p>Make real or make-believe animal or bird puppets from a paper bag, old sock or a stick.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Cloud Number Nine</b></p> <p>Plan a time to look at the clouds. Draw pictures of the shades you see. Write a story about the clouds.</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>Books—don't leave home without them.</b></p> <p>Remember to pack books for everyone in your family to take on your trips near and far.</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p><b>Have you finished reading your three books?</b></p>



# August

# Reading is a Picnic!

# 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Reach for the Stars</b> Pack a dinner picnic. Drive or walk to the highest point you can find and stargaze.	<b>2</b> <b>Choose</b> three or more books to read this month. Write in your journal every day.	<b>3</b> <b>Words</b> Look at a magazine or newspaper and cut out the longest word, funniest word, saddest word, smallest word.	<b>4</b> <b>Pick out</b> two cartoon strips. Cut them in sections and mix them up. Save them.	<b>5</b> <b>It's a Hit!</b> Find and read books on baseball or your favorite sport. Attend a game.	<b>6</b> <b>Sweet Treat</b> Make a list of the sweetest treats you'd like to pack in your picnic basket.	<b>7</b> <b>Share . . .</b> something you read in the newspaper with your family.
<b>8</b> <b>Plan</b> a family reading time for today.	<b>9</b> <b>Look</b> in a magazine or newspaper. Circle all <u>hot</u> words in red and all <u>cold</u> words in blue.	<b>10</b> <b>Sports' Alphabet</b> Find pictures or words about sports or games. Add the pictures to your scrapbook.	<b>11</b> <b>Secret Code</b> Write a message to someone in a secret code.	<b>12</b> <b>Swim with the Fishes</b> Take swimming lessons if you don't know how or get certified in lifeguard skills at your local pool.	<b>13</b> <b>S.U.T.A.R.D</b> Sit Under a Tree And Read Day. Remember your journal.	<b>14</b> <b>Be Cool</b> Clean your room and surprise someone!
<b>15</b> <b>Read aloud</b> to someone for ten minutes.	<b>16</b> <b>Write a letter today</b> to someone far or near.	<b>17</b> <b>Count</b> the days before school. Make a list of things you need to do to get ready for school.	<b>18</b> <b>Poem</b> I wish I were a fish. Not a fish in a dish. But a fish swimming free in the sea! Make up a second stanza.	<b>19</b> <b>Prepare for the Pool</b> Swimsuit, book, sunscreen, book, towel, book, sunglasses, book. Read a chapter after each dip.	<b>20</b> <b>Reading is Cool Day</b> Wear sunglasses and cool attire—READ!	<b>21</b> <b>Read</b> about your favorite sport or event in the newspaper. Share your information with someone.
<b>22</b> <b>Ask someone</b> to read to you. Did you read three books this month?	<b>23</b> <b>31 Flavors</b> Brainstorm a list of ice cream flavors. How many did you list? Now visit your local ice cream shop and compare flavors. Who has the most flavors? Enjoy an ice cream cone!	<b>24</b> <b>Think</b> of all the things you want to do tomorrow. Make a schedule showing what time you think each activity will begin.	<b>25</b> <b>Practice</b> writing your full name, address, telephone number and birthday.	<b>26</b> <b>Lick &amp; Mark</b> After cooling off with a popsicle, turn the sticks into a bookmark. Paint them, attach material or color them.	<b>27</b> <b>Shoes &amp; Shirts Required</b> Pretend you have \$75 to spend on some cool summer clothes. Look in a catalog or newspaper. Make a list. Were you a good shopper?	<b>28</b> <b>Cool off</b> in the library today. Take someone with you. Enjoy a favorite book. Share the exciting parts with each other.
<b>29</b> <b>Don't Spit the Seeds!</b> Cut into a cool watermelon; enjoy, but save the seeds. Glue dried seeds into patterns on paper plates. Write or tell about your pictures.	<b>30</b> <b>The Moose Cafe</b> or you make up a name. Make up a healthy menu for imaginary restaurants with creative descriptions. (Ask a restaurant for a free copy of their menu.)	<b>31</b> <b>Your Day!</b> What would you like to read today? READ!!	<b>Think Cool!</b> August is hot, hot, hot, so chill out with cool books.			 <b>Linda McCulloch, Superintendent</b> Montana Office of Public Instruction PO Box 202501 Helena, Montana 59620-2501 <a href="http://www.opi.state.mt.us">www.opi.state.mt.us</a>

# Reading is a Picnic!

## Membership Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

How many books did you read this summer? \_\_\_\_\_

What was your favorite book? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy the Reading is a Picnic activities this summer? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive a reading calendar next summer? \_\_\_\_\_

***Have a parent or guardian sign this part.***

\_\_\_\_\_

*Student's Name*

Completed all the Reading is a Picnic summer activities.

Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:



Linda McCulloch, Superintendent  
Family Reading Program  
Office of Public Instruction  
PO Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501



*Remember to read at least 20 minutes each day!*